

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation. This documentary would be less objectionable if there was an ample amount of time before the election to examine the issues raised. But this documentary is focused on events 30 years ago, and is hardly late breaking news. It runs a great risk of harming a healthy democratic process.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we increase the danger of distortions in available information. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.